



THE FIREBOX

May 2026

MAY Club Meeting

Place: Carillon Brewing Company

Third Wednesday, May 20

Last chance to discuss activities to get ready for Heritage day run on May 24th. With good weather it is normally well attended. Band and orchestra concerts plus food vendors.

A reminder: We have arranged with the Carillon Brewing Co. to hold our monthly meetings in a side room at the brewery. We have the room from 6 to 9 PM with meeting start still at 7PM. Come early and have dinner or snacks beforehand. You can bring your food into the meeting if you're not done by meeting start.

April 18 run day and picnic

Saturday April 18 was supposed to be our first public run of the summer season but got washed out. It was cool and rainy until past 3PM. We had to cancel the run, but a hearty group enjoyed a great lunch in the picnic shelter and having a good time despite the weather.



May 9th Run Day

We enjoyed a great day with a steady stream of riders. Ran 7695 with a 5 car train and had full trains almost every run. Only had one time where people had to wait in line one circuit. All told we had between 200 to 250 riders for the afternoon. Many thanks to the members who came down to help. We had a good crew and could have run 2 trains but the crowd didn't require it. Dennis Gilbert and friend set up a display of live steam stationary engine models in the boarding area and was a hit with visitors. We ran the full 1 mile loop and got good feedback from many of the passengers. It was very popular and we had many happy repeat riders.



Typical train load on May 9th Run day

RIDING CAR REFURBISHMENT

Work on the two blue riding cars at Yoder's shop is almost complete. The car bodies have been degreased, cleaned and painted. Larry W has updated the electric wiring in the cars. Three of the 4 trucks needed have been disassembled, degreased, cleaned, painted and reassembled. The 4th truck and couplers are in the cleaning process and will be painted and assembled shortly. The two cars should be back in service for Rail Fest. There are still two blue riding cars that need to go through the shop. Work on them can wait until after Rail Fest. If you are interested in helping, text (937-572-3411) or email: rbschwenke50@aol.com. Three or four people at most, before we start getting in each other's way. Bob Schwenke will contact you to coordinate times.

Heritage Day, Sunday May 24

Heritage Day is coming up quickly. This is a major event for the Park and is well attended. There will be food vendors, a band concert in the afternoon and the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing a patriotic concert in the evening on the green. This has always been a good day for us and we can expect a good crowd of riders. Two trains may be needed, so come down and join in on the fun. The 1 mile loop is ready and both 7695 and 9615 are ready to run. Remember grades on the big route are steep going up to and down from the tunnel, so trains are limited to 5 rider cars. The red, orange and blue rider cars have all been inspected and serviced.

2026 Rail Fest Is Coming Soon

Calling all members. Make plans now to be at this year's Rail Fest, June 27 & 28. Only 5 1/2 weeks away. Set up will be June 26. Don't forget the Saturday evening picnic. A big crew means we can run multiple trains and have

time for members to tour the show and graze the food vendors.

Big Boy 4014 coming to OHIO

If you haven't seen the eastern half tour schedule, here are details. 4014 will make 2 stops in Fostoria, the closest place to Dayton.

On the east bound trip a 15 minute servicing stop is scheduled for Sunday June 7 from 2:00 to 2:15 PM. There is no public access, but the 4014 will be parked near the Fostoria Iron Triangle Railpark at 499 S. Poplar St.

On the westbound return, 4014 is scheduled to stop at Fostoria Tuesday July 14. 4014 and her train will be parked at the Fostoria Automotive Distribution Center, 3101 North Township Road 47. 4014 and train will be on display from 9am to 3PM. No access to the engine cab or railcars.

If you decide to go, admission is free and no ticket is required. UP advises visitors to remember Safety First. UP asks you to stay 25 ft from the engine and train. 4014 will be displayed in an active, working rail environment. Stay alert to your surroundings and be aware that surfaces may be uneven. 4014 has been drawing big crowds, you may have to wait in line. Port a John's will be available on site. No public access outside of the display hours. For the full eastern tour schedule, google UP.com. and hit the light blue "Big Boy No. 4014 Schedule" button on the opening page.

T-shirts/Hoodies Available

The last order has arrived and items are ready to be paid for and picked up. See Mike Desch if you have something on order.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

March 31 is the annual membership renewal date. But if you missed it, your welcome to pay

dues at any time. Give or mail to Bob Schwenke:

4227 Alleghany Trail, Jamestown, OH 45335.

The treasurer reports that dues have been received from the following members:

Kevin Anderson

John Baker

Bruce Bloom

Edwin Bragg

Bruce Bryan

Dan Cuvier

Mike Desch

Eliotte Dow – Jr Member

Mark Fenbers

Scott Fish

Jon Frank

Dennis Gilbert

Jim Helmbold

Ken Hemmelgarn

Nathan Hill

Bob Hoyle

Thom Pompos

Sean Roberts

Norb Schertzer

Hans Schmellenkamp

Robert Schwenke

Eric Summers (Landon – Jr member))

Charlie Waldron

Larry Wassell

Don Yoder

Ed Yoder

If your not on this list and believe you should be, notify the Treasurer, Robert Schwenke.

MEMBERSHIP Data base

Norm Schertzer is working on a project to build a comprehensive club member information base. When you pay your dues please include as much of the following information as your comfortable providing:

Address

email address

cell phone number

home phone number

preferred communication type (email, text msg, phone, other)

Special Skills: welder, machinist, electronics, computer tech, writing, carpenter, plumber, etc.

Items for sale

2-4-0+0-4-2 Garret type

Long time club member and locomotive builder John Baker is selling his 2-4-0+0-4-2 Garret type steam locomotive. It has run at our track in years past, but John has reached the point in life that he can no longer run it. Some details about the engine:

Length: 7ft + (under 8ft)

Gauge: 7 1/2"

Fuel: propane fired

Assembled weight: 650 Lbs.

Southern valve gear. One lever controlling fwd & rev. to both sets of cylinders.

Single axle propane trailer car

Accessories include:

- winch & frame to lift units,
- storage dolly 10ft long, 30" high
- Prints and sketches of components & assembly

Also for sale a 2009 Town & Country Van w/ carry board to transport locomotive. (if wanted) 179000miles, new tires, runs OK.

Price is negotiable.



For more information contact John at 513-543-1946

0-4-0 Grasshopper



Built using measurements taken from the "John Quincy Adams" Grasshopper housed in the Dicke Bldg. Started locally by the club's 1st President John Stibravy. John was transferred to New Jersey by the Air Force and sold the project to a member of the New Jersey Live Steamers. It was finished there and built to run on New Jersey clubs 7¼ " gauge track. Includes engine as pictured plus engineer's car, propane tank and misc parts. Also available,(if wanted) is the carry board built to bring the equipment to Dayton from New Jersey.

To run on our track, the wheels must be regauged from 7¼" to 7½". Engine is in process of conversion from coal/wood to propane fired but this was not finished.

Price: \$4000

For more information text or phone (leave voice mail) Bob Schwenke at 937-572-3411